

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning "FIGURE 1 illustrates a communication system 10 . . . " on Page 6, line 2 of the Specification as follows:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a communication system 10 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, service and/or content providers provide video services to users through multicast channels to which access is controlled to allow the providers to bill for premium content. Accordingly, some content such as basic network television channels will always be available to users free of charge, but content such as pay-per-view and premium channels are controlled to retain their ~~value-at~~ value as a source of potential revenue. Other services such as Webcam, local, or other special interest group channels may be controlled for privacy and security reasons. Accordingly, service and other providers can deliver differentiated, community or other group-focused services with specific channels as part of a multicast service offering. In providing services, providers can employ content switching mechanisms to replace programming options. For example, a local news program can preempt or replace national programming. It will be understood that in addition to video, audio, data and/or combinations of content types may be provided to users through the access controlled multicast channels. Audio may be radio, music channels or audio-only training materials. Data content can be stock quotes, software distribution and the like.